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**Eighth annual July 4th Parade to step off at 10 a.m.**

The many dimensions of diversity in Oak Park will be on display when the eighth annual July 4<sup>th</sup> parade steps off at 10 a.m., Fri., July 4 from [Longfellow Park](#) at Ridgeland Avenue and Adams Street.

The parade will begin promptly at 10 a.m., marching north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street, turning east to disperse near [Whittier Elementary School](#) at Harvey Avenue. Children's entertainment, sponsored by the [Park District of Oak Park](#), will be presented on the school grounds following the parade.

Among the entries scheduled to march are social and special interest groups, community groups, athletic teams, politicians, businesses and service organizations, children's groups, animal lovers with their pets and musical groups.

"The anniversary of the founding of our country with its emphasis on freedom is the perfect time to re-examine the diverse identities and lifestyles in Oak Park," said Catherine Bendowitz, chair of the Oak Park Community Relations Commission, which organizes and sponsors the parade.

"We Oak Parkers share not only the acceptance, but also the celebration of peoples of different national origins, race and ethnicities, age groups, gender, sexual orientation, economic classes, physical and mental abilities, educational level, family status and other attributes that make us who we are. Our community is unique in this, and it truly is a reason to celebrate."

For more information on the parade call 708.358.5406 or e-mail [community@oak-park.us](mailto:community@oak-park.us).

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